

THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

pro bono humani generis

1230 YORK AVENUE - NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10021-6399

Joshua Lederberg

UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR-emeritus

June 2, 2002

↓
Dr. Vartan Gregorian
President
The Carnegie Corporation
New York

Dear Vartan

As a matter of common sense, and bolstered by my work on innumerable national security and defense advisory groups, it is clear that one of our most urgent needs is a deeper understanding of Islamism, and its broader contexts.

Is this on your programmatic agenda for the Carnegie? There is a modest effort now going on at US universities -- it would help to have an inventory. But they should be encouraged and enabled to develop many more -- and imaginably even broader-viewed -- Bernard Lewis's.

I'm sure you've given this much thought, and I'd be interested to have your views. I even get some resonance in Washington when I compare 9/11 not to Pearl Harbor, but to Sputnik. In 1957 we responded energetically with the Defense Education Act, to meet the technical challenges put in our face by the Soviets. Today we have a more subtle crisis, to know enough to mobilize our technology and other resources to get resolution across a vast cultural divide.

I have no personal stake in this proposal (except the lives saved may be our own.) Which other foundations might be approachable, perhaps for a joint effort?

The topic is way out of the mandate of the Ellison Medical Foundation, which I do help administer to the tune of about \$40MM/year. If you do run into worthy initiatives for application of cutting edge biological science to global infectious disease, let's hear about those.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg